

The State of Washington through the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Washington State Department of Health, together with King County, the LOTT Alliance, and the other undersigned public bodies and organizations throughout the state adopt the following statement supporting the use of reclaimed water in the State of Washington.

Whereas, reclaimed water is an alternative water supply created from highly treated wastewater; and

Whereas, reliable and safe supplies of water are essential for meeting the existing and future needs of people, fish, farming, industry, and recreation; and

Whereas, the need for water in our state will likely grow as the result of population growth, economic development, and stream flow restoration; and

Whereas, according to peer-reviewed research from the University of Washington, global climate change is expected to result in the following impacts to the climate of the Pacific Northwest: reduced snow pack and associated strains on drinking water supplies, changes in winter flooding patterns, reduced summer stream flows for fish, and altered habitat for other wildlife; and

Whereas, reclaimed water is a safe alternative to drinking water (potable water) for approved uses such as irrigating golf courses and parks, fire fighting, toilet flushing, and industrial process cooling; and

Whereas, reclaimed water can also be used to create and repair wetlands, recharge groundwater, and augment stream flow, and thus enhance habitat for fish; and

Whereas, the more that reclaimed water is produced and used, the amount of wastewater that enters our water bodies, including Puget Sound, will decrease; and

Whereas, the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Health regulate reclaimed water under comprehensive standards for protection of public health and the environment; and

Whereas, the State of Washington has made it a policy since 1993 to encourage the use of reclaimed water to augment or replace the state's available potable water supplies; and

Whereas, the Legislature in 2006 directed the Department of Ecology, with support from the Department of Health, to update the state's reclaimed water standards by 2010 to reflect state-of-the-art technology and allow expanded uses of reclaimed water; and

Whereas, communities in Washington and other states, including California, Florida, Arizona, and Texas, have successfully used reclaimed water to supplement their water supplies without threatening existing water resources or public health; and

Whereas, local governments throughout the state are including expanded use of reclaimed water in their strategies for fish recovery and for meeting water quality goals; and

Whereas, use of reclaimed water is growing nationwide and around the world;

Now, therefore, we resolve to continue to encourage and promote the development and use of reclaimed water in the State of Washington, to work together to overcome barriers to its use, to ensure protection of public health and environmental quality, and to promote public acceptance of reclaimed water.

Jay Manning, Director
Washington State Department of
Ecology

Ron Sims, King County Executive

Michael D. Strub, P.E., LOTT Alliance

Tom Agnew, Liberty Lake Sewer &
Water District

Larry Curles, Annapolis Water District,
Karcher Creek Sewer District

Gregg Grunenfelder, Assistant Secretary, Division of Environmental Health,
Washington State Department of Health

Nancy Peterson, LOTT Alliance

Bonnie Mager, Spokane County
Commissioner

Michael Wolanek, City of Arlington
Utilities

Ben McConkey, LOTT Alliance

Doug Mah, LOTT Alliance

Donald L.P. Miller, Lakehaven Utility
District

Richard Atwater, WateReuse
Association

James Kelley, City of Arlington

Declaration of Support for Reclaimed Water

Mark Nelson, Evergreen Valley Utilities
Karla Fowler, LOTT Alliance

Shaun Redmond, Olympia/LOTT
Terri Prather, LOTT Alliance

People For Puget Sound
Ron Schultz, Acting Director
Puget Sound Partnership

Bob Swarner, King County WTD
John Komorita, King County WTD

Ron Kohler, King County WTD
John Kounts, Washington Public Utility
Association

Washington Environmental Coalition

Chris Kelsey, Kennedy/Jenks

Scott Redmond, Puget Sound Action
Team

Geoff Reed, King Conservation District

FutureWise (formerly 1000 Friends of
Washington)

Rob Masonis, American Rivers